L. I. BREZHNEV

SPEECH IN THE CITY OF TULA

on January 18, 1977

AN ANALYSIS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION

START
OF THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD:
AN INCREASE
IN THE PEOPLE'S
WELL-BEING

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By a decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the city of Tula has been awarded the title of Hero City, in recognition of the courage and staunchness of the heroic defenders of the city of Tula, of the important role of the defence of Tula in the rout of the German fascist troops near Moscow in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45.

Here is the text of the speech delivered by Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, during the ceremony of presenting to the Hero City of Tula the Gold Star Medal.

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Leonid Ilyich BREZHNEV
General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

Dear Comrades!

The farther the years of the Great Patriotic War recede into the past, the more we appreciate the greatness and significance of the heroic deeds of those unforgettable days. Today we are honouring Tula, the hero city whose outstanding exploit has earned it the highest award of our Homeland.

As a participant in the war I am particularly happy to be with you on this memorable day and to share your festive mood.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the citizens of your fine city, men and women, people of all ages and walks of life, on this high award.

The other hero cities whose names are forever associated with the most memorable events of the war salute you today. Moscow, Leningrad and Volgograd,

Sevastopol and Odessa, Kiev and Minsk, Novorossiisk, Kerch and the fortress of Brest have sent their representatives to Tula to welcome your city into their heroic family.

Veterans of the difficult years of the war, frontline fighters and the home-front workers who had done their utmost for the victory, they too congratulate and salute you today.

Indeed, your joy and your pride are shared by the whole Soviet people.

On such important days one senses all the more strongly the links of time: our present rests on what had been created, won and defended by previous generations.

Your city is one of the oldest in the country. For centuries Tula had been the shield and the arsenal of the Russian state. On these ancient lands the character of the Russian people—industrious workingmen and skilled craftsmen, staunch defenders of their homeland and dauntless fighters for a happy future—had been formed.

Tula is a city of rich revolutionary and fighting traditions. It is here that one of the militant detachments of the Russian proletariat had been formed and then hardened in class battles. In the years of the Revolution and the Civil War your city manufactured arms for the Red Army. The onslaught of Denikin's counter-revolutionary troops was turned

back at the outskirts of Tula. Lenin wrote in those days: "The importance of Tula nowadays is truly considerable—and, in general, irrespective of the enemy's proximity, the importance of Tula for the Republic is enormous." Today we have every ground to say that Tula, the city of working people, has always been worthy of Lenin's high opinion.

In the dramatic autumn days of 1941, when Hitler's high command gambled everything on the capture of Moscow, Tula once again proved to be an impregnable barrier in the enemy's path.

The fascists planned to seize Tula and to strike at Moscow from the south. To them this seemed to be an easy task. Between the tank divisions of Guderian and Moscow there were no large Soviet army units at the time. However, the citizens of Tula and its environs joined the troops in their city's defence. Even when the enemy almost succeeded in encircling the town, the Tula defenders did not flinch. Munition workers, miners and metallurgists stood up and fought to the last man. In the flaming battles of 1941 the celebrated Tula Workers' Regiment had covered itself with immortal glory.

Tula Communists, the Tula Party organization, were the very soul of the heroic defence of the city. On October 16, 1941, at a meeting of the activists of the City Party Organization a resolution was adopted: Tula would not surrender. One cannot read

this document without being deeply moved: "Tula, the red forge, the city of armourers, the city of metallurgists," read the resolution, "will never fall into the filthy paws of the German bandits. We, the Bolsheviks of Tula, do hereby assure the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) that we all, as one man, will take up arms to fight to the last drop of our blood for our Homeland, for our beloved city, and will never surrender Tula to the enemy." And, Comrades, the people of Tula had honoured their pledge.

Out of 40,000 Party members of the city, 32,000 had taken up arms. The Communists led people in defence-line construction. They saw to it that the firm revolutionary order in the besieged city had been maintained, that the arms production had not lagged even for one hour.

Side by side with the Communists, members of the Leninist Young Communist League fought the enemy.

And Tula had stood up, Tula had emerged victorious.

It gives me great pleasure to greet today the organizers of the Tula defence present here: the Chairman of the city Defence Committee and the First Secretary of the Party Regional Committee, Vassily Gavrilovich Zhavoronkov; the Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee, Nikolai Ivanovich Chmutov; and the commanders of the military units, Anatoly

Petrovich Gorshkov, Mikhail Trofimovich Bondarenko and Stepan Fyodorovich Zubkov.

Present today in this hall are former members of the Tula Workers' Regiment, Nikita Pavlovich Zubankov, Alexei Nikolayevich Terekhovkin and Vsevolod Sergeyevich Strokov. Also present here are former servicemen, guerilla fighters, and workers of Tula factories who in a frontline city, under enemy fire had been forging the weapons of victory.

Dear friends, please accept the homage of all those whom you were defending, and whom you had defended.

Many, very many did not return from the battlefields. They fell in defence of life, in defence of our Motherland.

Let us honour their memories by standing up...

Comrades! The lessons of the past war call for our vigilance. Yes, fascism was crushed. But there still exist fascists and pro-fascist regimes. Some people still dream of revenge. There exist aggressive forces which are far from being inactive. We have no right to ignore this.

Yesterday I visited Yasnaya Polyana, a sacred place for every cultured person. The life described by Leo Tolstoi had faded into the past, but his works are eternal, for the feelings and emotions so brilliantly depicted by him are eternal.

It is there, at Yasnaya Polyana, that the great

writer had long pondered over the problems which are close to us today—the problems of war and peace. Not all of Tolstoi's ideas are in tune with our time. But the principal idea of his great novel—that in the last analysis it is the people, the great masses of people, who solve the basic problems of history, who determine the destinies of states and the outcome of wars—this profound idea is just as true today as it has always been. So today, in recalling the tragic years of the war, we pay homage to the people as fighter, the people as victor, the people who in the course of the thirty post-war years have turned their Homeland into a powerful and flourishing state.

People often say: "How time flies!" And indeed this is so. Time flows slowly only where nothing is happening. Look what is happening in our country: there are construction projects everywhere; everywhere people are working; everywhere there is steady, big advancement.

The tenth five-year plan has got off to a good start. The year 1976 saw the biggest-ever harvest in our history—224 million tons of grain. Industrial output went up by 4.8 per cent instead of the planned 4.3 per cent. More than 6,000 million roubles worth of industrial output was marketed over and above plan. In 1976 people's real incomes increased by 3.7 per cent. In a word, the tremendous, comprehensive programme of economic and cultural ad-

vancement charted by the 25th CPSU Congress is being translated into life.

You, the people of Tula, are also successfully implementing this programme. Tula today is a major industrial and cultural centre. Here important scientific research is being conducted, and most up-to-date machines, equipment and precision instruments are made. The workers, technicians and engineers, and the intelligentsia of Tula are making an important contribution to the cause of communist construction.

I was happy to learn that you had carried out your socialist pledges for the first year of the five-year plan ahead of schedule, and that the city's industry turned out almost 15 million roubles worth of output over and above plan. And it is important that the increment in industrial output was obtained through higher labour productivity.

Among those in the vanguard are the personnel of the *Tulachermet* research-and-production association, the *Shtamp* and *Priboi* factories, the Kosogorsky metallurgical plant and other enterprises. They are working persistently on the technical modernization of production, the introduction of integrated systems of control of output quality, and on raising the efficiency of their entire economic effort.

I was greatly impressed by the personnel of the engineering plant which I visited last night. Sixty-three per cent of their output bears the state Quality

Mark. Of course, there is such an indicator as 100 per cent. But what has already been achieved is good, is great.

Recently, after learning that the honorary title of Hero City had been awarded to Tula, the veteran workers of the plant addressed all the citizens of Tula with an appeal to make Tula a city of high production efficiency, and an exemplary city in cultural and everyday-life standards. I wholeheartedly support this initiative.

Now, in the first weeks of the new year, it would be appropriate to recall the saying "well begun—half-done." This refers particularly to the current five-year plan, justly called a five-year plan of efficiency and quality. For to attain a planned quantitative level one can, so to say, "rush it" at the last minute. But such spurts are obviously inadequate for attaining a new quality level, for markedly improving efficiency. For this systematic, day-by-day effort is needed. And this applies, of course, not only to Tula, but to all our enterprises, to all branches of the economy, all work collectives in town and countryside.

The Tula worker has always been famous for his skill, for high output quality. And it was not without reason that Leskov made the hero of his well-known story *Levsha* (The Lefty) precisely a Tula craftsman. And you will note, Comrades, that Levsha not only possesses great skill, but also takes pride in his art,

in what we would call today the "quality of work." He cannot work badly; this would be below his dignity as a working man.

You will probably agree that the problem of quality in many ways is a problem of the skill, professional qualifications, and conscientiousness of every worker in our time as well, a time of spectacular scientific and technological progress and of great changes in the character of labour.

On this memorable day one cannot help saying kind words about those who continue in a worthy manner the glorious traditions of working-class Tula, who set examples of a conscientious, responsible attitude to their duty as workers. The renowned workers' dynasties of the Shishkovs, the Ilyins and the Tikhonovs are greatly respected in Tula. Among the best of the best are Heroes of Socialist Labour, gauge-makers' team leaders Leonid Alexandrovich Grishin and Gennady Alexandrovich Pushkin. Also among them are Ivan Mikhailovich Borisov, a senior sinterer, who was a delegate to the 25th CPSU Congress, and Alevtina Stepanovna Serova, member of the Central Auditing Commission of the CPSU, and Alexander Ivanovich Chekulayev, deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, both grinders. And among them is Valentina Alexandrovna Kasimova, an assemblers' team leader, who is a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

In our country there are hundreds of thousands of such people who by their example illumine the road ahead of us. And this is as it should be. In the land of the Soviet people, in the country led by the Party of Communists, there will always be men and women with good hearts, who are boundlessly loyal to our immortal communist cause. Glory and honour to them!

These days reports are streaming in from all over the country about the tremendous, enthusiastic response of millions upon millions of working people to the resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and the Young Communist League Central Committee "On the All-Union Socialist Emulation for Raising the Efficiency of Production and Improving the Quality of Work, for Successfully Fulfilling the Assignments of the Tenth Five-Year Plan." More and more pledges to meet in a worthy manner the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution are being made everywhere. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Tula Party organization, all working people of your city will also meet the anniversary of Soviet power with huge labour successes.

In keeping with the Leninist tradition to consult the Party and the people on the most important matters, on matters of concern to the entire state, the

Central Committee recently addressed a letter to collective farmers, workers on state farms, farm-machine operators, scientists, agricultural specialists, workers in industries that supply materials and equipment for agriculture, to all working people of the Soviet Union, which outlines the most urgent problems of agriculture and sets forth a concrete programme for its accelerated development. Judging by the people's response to the letter of the Central Committee, Communists, all working people are resolved to give all their energy to the effort to grow a bumper harvest, to ensure a substantial improvement of animal husbandry. This is heartening. We can now be confident that in the anniversary year the workers in agriculture will advance to new frontiers in the development of this vitally important branch of the economy.

Comrades, I think there is no need today to dwell on the entire range of domestic problems and tasks. They were clearly formulated at the 25th CPSU Congress. They were thoroughly discussed last October at a Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee. The Plenary Meeting confirmed once again that in the centre of the Party's policy is a concern for the Soviet man, for his needs and requirements. To achieve a steady growth of the people's living standards was and remains the main goal of all our plans, both for the immediate future and over a longer period.

Here we are faced with many big and complex questions. Not all of them are being solved as quickly as we would like to see. You know, that the weather conditions during the past five-year period, especially in 1972 and 1975, were extremely unfavourable for agriculture. This could not but affect the supply of meat and dairy products to the people. The Party is aware of these difficulties and is doing its utmost to overcome them.

I would like to point out in this connection that the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has outlined a series of major measures aimed at improving the situation in animal husbandry. These measures are being put into effect. Much more fodder has been stored than last year. Pig-breeding and poultry-raising are being developed at an accelerated pace. Emphasis is on improving livestock breeding and production and on the intensive fattening of animals. Conditions are thereby being created for a noticeable improvement in the supply of meat and dairy products to the people.

On the whole, Comrades, the tenth five-year-plan period will mark a major stride forward in raising the people's living standards. Suffice it to say, that within the last year alone nearly eleven million people had their housing conditions improved. The average monthly pay of industrial and office workers now exceeds 151 roubles. Last year the retail goods

turnover of state and co-operative trade grew by 4.6 per cent.

A decision to raise the pay rates and salaries of 31 million workers in education, public health services, the cultural field, and trade and communal services was adopted recently. This seems to be a good New Year present, though strictly speaking, the word "present" is not quite applicable here. The raising of wages is a logical outcome of the growth of social productivity of labour. The relationship here is simple: the more efficient our work, the bigger the possibilities of our state. I am convinced that everyone will draw a correct conclusion from this: in order to live better, to earn more, one must work better. This is an old but not an outdated truth.

Before coming to Tula, I made a point to find out how the people of Tula are living and how the city is developing. I was told that new houses with modern conveniences are built in Tula every year, that the number of places at schools and kindergartens is being increased and new hospitals and outpatient clinics are being opened.

I know you will say that this is not enough. You will say that more flats are needed, more schools and kindergartens, more goods in stores. Well, you are right. Our requirements are out-

stripping our possibilities. But we are not marking time; we are advancing. Let us compare several figures. Whereas 474 million roubles were allocated for the development of Tula in the eighth five-year-plan period and 718 million roubles in the ninth, under the tenth five-year plan 903 million roubles have been earmarked for Tula. Why aren't you applauding? *(Applause and animation in the hall.)* Altogether 2,280,000 square metres of housing has been built in Tula in the past ten years. This means, in fact, that a second Tula has been built. Many handsome buildings—a theatre, a circus, an art museum, a sports complex, many new schools, kindergartens and nurseries—have appeared in the city.

As you see, our line is that of further improving the life of working people. Allocations for housing construction, education and public health, for everyday and communal needs are steadily growing. This is true not only of Tula. This is true of the country as a whole. All our deeds and thoughts are directed toward perfecting the socialist way of life.

Everywhere our great nation is absorbed in peaceful creative work, it is engaged in an undertaking of tremendous scope and historical importance. And the Soviet people do not want the threat of war to weigh down on them like a heavy burden. The 25th Congress instructed the Central Committee unswervingly to intensify efforts to ensure a lasting

peace. And that is what we are doing, perseveringly and, I would say, consistently.

Soviet people fervently support the Party's foreign policy. They know that this policy is designed to safeguard their country against war and that it accords with the interests of all nations, that it opens vast vistas for promoting friendship and co-operation between nations and advances the cause of social progress on our planet. At many meetings and rallies, in thousands upon thousands of letters to the Central Committee of the CPSU, to newspapers, radio and television, they highly praise the Central Committee, its Political Bureau and the Soviet Government for their unremitting struggle for peace.

No other country has ever offered the world such a sweeping, clear-cut and realistic programme for lessening and then fully eliminating the danger of another war, as the Soviet Union.

This programme includes such a global measure as the conclusion of a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. It encompasses all the key problems relating to the arms drive and maps out effective measures to curb it, to achieve disarmament. This programme is aimed at preventing the appearance of new types and new systems of weapons of mass destruction, and at putting a total ban on nuclear tests. The Soviet Union has proposed to the United States that they refrain, on the

basis of reciprocity, from creating new types of submarines and strategic bombers.

All of our peaceful initiatives accord with the common political line of the fraternal socialist countries in the international arena. We are working together to promote these initiatives. The proposals advanced by the Soviet Union and its friends are supported by dozens of countries at the United Nations, by the popular masses on all continents.

Fresh convincing proof of the peaceful nature of the defensive alliance of the socialist states–Bulgaria, Hungary, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia–is the important proposals they set forth at a recent meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. They call on all the participants in the European conference to pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons against one another and not to take actions that could lead to an increase in membership of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and NATO.

We believe that the noble ideas of peace upheld by the Leninist Party and the Soviet State will ultimately be translated into reality.

But this can be achieved only through struggle, precisely through struggle, Comrades, because our constructive proposals often come up against mute opposition and at times open resistance.

When, for example, the members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization raised the question of not being the first to use nuclear weapons, NATO's reply amounted to the following: no, that won't do, for we want to retain the ability to threaten the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons. We hope, however, that those who have the final say in matters of national policy, will exercise realism with respect to our proposal.

Here is another example. At the talks on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe we are told in effect: you should reduce more and we shall reduce less. This position certainly will not facilitate progress of the talks.

Behind all that one feels the pressure exerted by the more aggressive forces of imperialism, the military and the military-industrial quarters and politicians bogged down in the mire of anti-Sovietism, the "hawks" as they are called in the West. It is precisely on their orders that intelligence agencies, military staffs and all sorts of institutes draw up bulky reports and treaties that interpret in a most arbitrary way the policy of the Soviet Union and its measures to strengthen its defence capability. And all that misinformation is, as if by command, circulated far and wide by news agencies, the press, radio and television. Frankly, we are tired of that blather. In the West, too, when serious politicians

are asked whether they feel concerned over this alleged Soviet threat, their reply is an emphatic No.

Of course, we are improving our defences. We cannot do otherwise. We have never yielded, and shall never yield in matters of our own security or the security of our allies.

However, the allegations that the Soviet Union is going beyond what it actually needs for its national defence, that it is trying to attain superiority in weapons in order to deal "the first blow," are absurd and totally unfounded. Not so long ago, at a meeting I had with a group of leading US businessmen, I said, and today I want to repeat it, that the Soviet Union has always been and remains strongly opposed to such concepts.

Our efforts are directed precisely at averting the first strike and the second strike, indeed at averting nuclear war in general. Our approach on these questions can be formulated as follows: the defence potential of the Soviet Union must be at a level that would deter anyone from attempting to disrupt our peaceful life. Not superiority in weapons, but a course aimed at reducing armaments, at easing the military confrontation—such is our policy.

On behalf of the Party and the entire people, I hereby declare that our country will never embark on the road of aggression, will never raise the sword against other nations.

It is not we, but certain forces in the West that are stepping up the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race. It is not we, but those forces that are swelling military budgets by throwing money–hundreds of billions–into the bottomless pit of military preparations. It is those forces that represent an aggressive line in international politics today under the false pretext of a "Soviet menace."

Unless this line is duly rebuffed, the threat of war will grow anew. This line is dangerous to the peoples both in the East and in the West. The Soviet Union will do all it can to counter it and expose the danger it presents.

From the experience of recent years we know that the policy of capitalist states can sometimes be determined by other forces – forces which realize the danger of playing with fire and which are capable of reckoning with the realities of the present-day world. We hope that notwithstanding all the hesitations and an inclination toward phrasemongering which is often dictated by the domestic situation, reasonableness and a sober approach to the problems of world politics will prevail in those states.

Indeed, it is precisely such an approach that made possible a change in the relations between the USSR and France, the conclusion of the well-known treaties between the USSR and the Federal Republic of Germany, the quadripartite agreement

on West Berlin, and important agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States and other capitalist countries, and the convening of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. In other words, detente was set in motion.

What is detente, or a relaxation of tensions? What meaning do we invest in this term? Detente means, first and foremost, ending the cold war and going over to normal, stable relations among states. It means a willingness to settle differences and disputes not by force, not by threats and sabre-rattling, but by peaceful means, at a conference table. It means trust among nations and the willingness to take each other's legitimate interests into consideration.

Practice has shown that the international atmosphere can be perceptibly changed within a short time. Contacts between countries in the political, economic, cultural and other fields have been broadened. And the most important thing, Comrades, is that the danger of a new all-out war has been reduced. People are giving a sigh of relief and are becoming more hopeful about the future. This is detente; these are its obvious results.

What can the cold-war generals offer in place of detente? Higher taxes and greater military expenditure? A further cut in allocations for social needs? Building up stockpiles of weapons of mass destruc-

tion? A whipping up of war hysteria and of fear of the future? This will not be accepted by the peoples. Definitely not.

A relaxation of international tension, as we all know, has been achieved at the price of tremendous efforts. And it is not easy to preserve the political capital of detente that has been accumulated. But no difficulties and obstacles will make us retreat. There is no task more urgent and vital than making peace lasting and inviolable.

Statesmen who are aware of their responsibility before millions of people, of their responsibility for the destinies of nations, should keep in mind the desire of the peoples for peace. As for the Soviet Union, it will not fail to do its duty in this.

We are prepared to co-operate with the new Administration in the United States in order to take a new major step forward with regard to relations between our countries.

First of all, it is necessary, we are convinced, to complete in the nearest future the drafting of an agreement on limiting strategic arms on the basis we had agreed upon in Vladivostok back in late 1974. Some statesmen in Washington now express regret over the fact that such an agreement still has not been signed. But regrets cannot recover lost time, and it is important that practical conclusions should be drawn from this.

In the United States, too, the question is being asked as to what will happen if such conclusions are not drawn. An influential US newspaper recently noted that in such an event the Soviet Union and the United States would start producing a new generation of nuclear weapons which would be practically impossible to control.

Such a prospect does not suit us. I repeat: time is short, and the conclusion of the agreement must not be postponed.

It goes without saying that the Soviet Union is prepared to go further as regards questions of limitation of strategic arms. But first it is necessary to consolidate what has already been achieved and to carry into practice what was agreed upon in Vladivostok, all the more so since the term of the Interim Agreement expires this October. Then we could immediately proceed to talks on more far-reaching measures. Otherwise, should we add new questions to the ones currently under discussion, we might only further complicate matters and delay the solution of the problem as a whole.

The need is urgent to prevent more surely the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to make more effective the non-proliferation rules and regulations defined in the known treaty. We are prepared to hold businesslike talks on this matter.

We would like to come as soon as possible to an

agreement also on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe. We have no objections to discussing the relevant questions at any level and at any venue–in Vienna, Bonn, Washington, Moscow–anywhere.

Occupying a central place in European politics today is the task of implementing to the full the accords reached by 35 states in Helsinki a year and a half ago. We regard the Final Act of the European Conference as a code of international obligations aimed at ensuring a lasting peace. To be sure, all of its provisions must be implemented, and that is our daily task. The Central Committee attaches much political importance to this work. Many of our ministries and agencies are involved in it.

It is quite understandable that at present much has been accomplished in some fields, while in others the necessary measures are being carried out gradually or are only being drafted. Much depends here on the overall state of political relations between states or, as it is sometimes said, on the level of detente. By poisoning the international atmosphere the opponents of detente are only impeding this work.

In Western countries attempts are often made to single out some elements from the Final Act and launch polemics over them. The purpose here is obvious: it is to obstruct the positive processes started

by the European Conference. Judging by everything, those who make such attempts care little about ensuring a lasting peace in Europe. They are concerned with something else. They would like to put pressure on us, to have us live according to rules that are incompatible with socialist democracy, with socialist law and order. I would like to say that this is a lost cause.

In Helsinki, states with a socialist social system and states with a different social system worked together and achieved important results. This was serious, businesslike co-operation based on a common interest in making the conference a success. Now this co-operation should be carried forward. We are ready to work toward this and, as you know, have already made a number of concrete proposals, in particular on several economic problems.

We regard it as a big and important task to develop further bilateral relations with France, the FRG, Italy, Great Britain and other European and non-European states. We have built and will continue to build our relations with them on the basis of the principle of peaceful co-existence. This is a Leninist principle, and we shall preserve and augment Lenin's legacy, all of it, which we hold sacred.

We are for the implementation of the most vigorous measures to eliminate the seat of war in the Middle East. The bloodshed in Lebanon, stopped

with such difficulty, has shown once again with what dangers a further delay in reaching a settlement of the Middle East conflict is fraught.

The Middle East needs a lasting and just settlement that would not impinge on the vital rights of any state and any people. Israel, of course, has the right to independence as a state and a secure existence. But the same right belongs also to the Arab people of Palestine.

The path to a solution of the Middle East problem lies—and we have said this on many occasions—through the Geneva Peace Conference on the Middle East. At present all the interested states appear to favour a resumption of the work of the conference. And this imparts still greater importance to co-operation between the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference—the Soviet Union and the United States. Given the will, they can do much to help the sides involved in the conflict in seeking mutually acceptable solutions.

Such is our stand on a number of major international issues.

Such are the intentions with which our country has entered the new year, 1977. The Soviet Union will do all it can toward this goal—that the results of the work this year would be better than those of the previous one in strengthening peace and security of the peoples, in promoting peaceful co-operation

among states. We will make our constructive contribution, and we would be justified in expecting all those to whom we address ourselves to do the same.

Comrades, in conclusion I would like to draw your attention once again to the tasks before us. We are now at the beginning of the second year of the tenth five-year plan, and it is very important, it is extremely important that all teams of workers, in town and countryside, should work well, achieving a good rhythm, and work to the best of their ability, from the very start of the year, from these very days of January.

It is a matter of honour for every Communist, for every working man and woman that the state plan, its quantitative and qualitative targets, be unfailingly fulfilled, that the socialist pledges be carried out. The Party Central Committee and the Soviet Government are convinced that here in Tula people will work only in this way.

Comrades, for more than ten years now the Banner of Tula has been adorned with the Order of Lenin. Now I have been given the honorary and pleasant task of pinning to your banner a Gold Star, a symbol of heroism, staunchness and courage, a symbol of nationwide appreciation of the outstanding feats of Tula's defenders.

Permit me to read out to you, on instructions from the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the

decree conferring the title of Hero City upon Tula.

(Amid stormy applause Leonid Brezhnev read out the Decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet awarding the honorary title of Hero City to Tula.

There was another ovation when Leonid Brezhnev pinned the Gold Star Medal to the city's banner. He cordially congratulated the leaders of Tula Region and the city of Tula, representatives of working people and war veterans. The audience chanted: "Glory to the Communist Party!" and "Glory to the Leninist Central Committee!" A loud "Hurray!" resounded in the hall.)

Dear friends, I again congratulate all of you wholeheartedly upon the high and well-deserved award.

May your wonderful city become still more beautiful!

May new victories in work and communist construction add to its glory!

May happiness, good spirits and prosperity be in every Tula family!

I wish you big successes, Comrades!

(L. I. Brezhnev's speech was heard with great attention and punctuated with prolonged applause.)

Л. И. Брежнев

РЕЧЬ В ГОРОДЕ ТУЛЕ

18 января 1977 года

на английском языке

Цена 8 коп.